

What is an Environmental Assessment (EA)?

An Environmental Assessment (EA) is one type of formal environmental study. These studies are required by the federal government for projects that will use federal funds and/or require federal permits for construction. The EA must be completed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA).

NEPA requires that before design and construction, projects must be evaluated in terms of the benefits and costs of possible effects on the environment, both natural and man-made. That process is designed to help agencies, elected officials and the public make sound decisions about federally approved or funded investments.

Concepts

How could the problem be solved?

Public Input

What does the public think of the concepts? Have we missed anything?

2005 - Concept Screening

Which ideas are most feasible? What has the public said?

2006 - Draft EA

What are the impacts of each alternative? What is the best reasonable alternative?

2006 - Public Hearing

What does the public think of the proposed solution or solutions?

We are here!

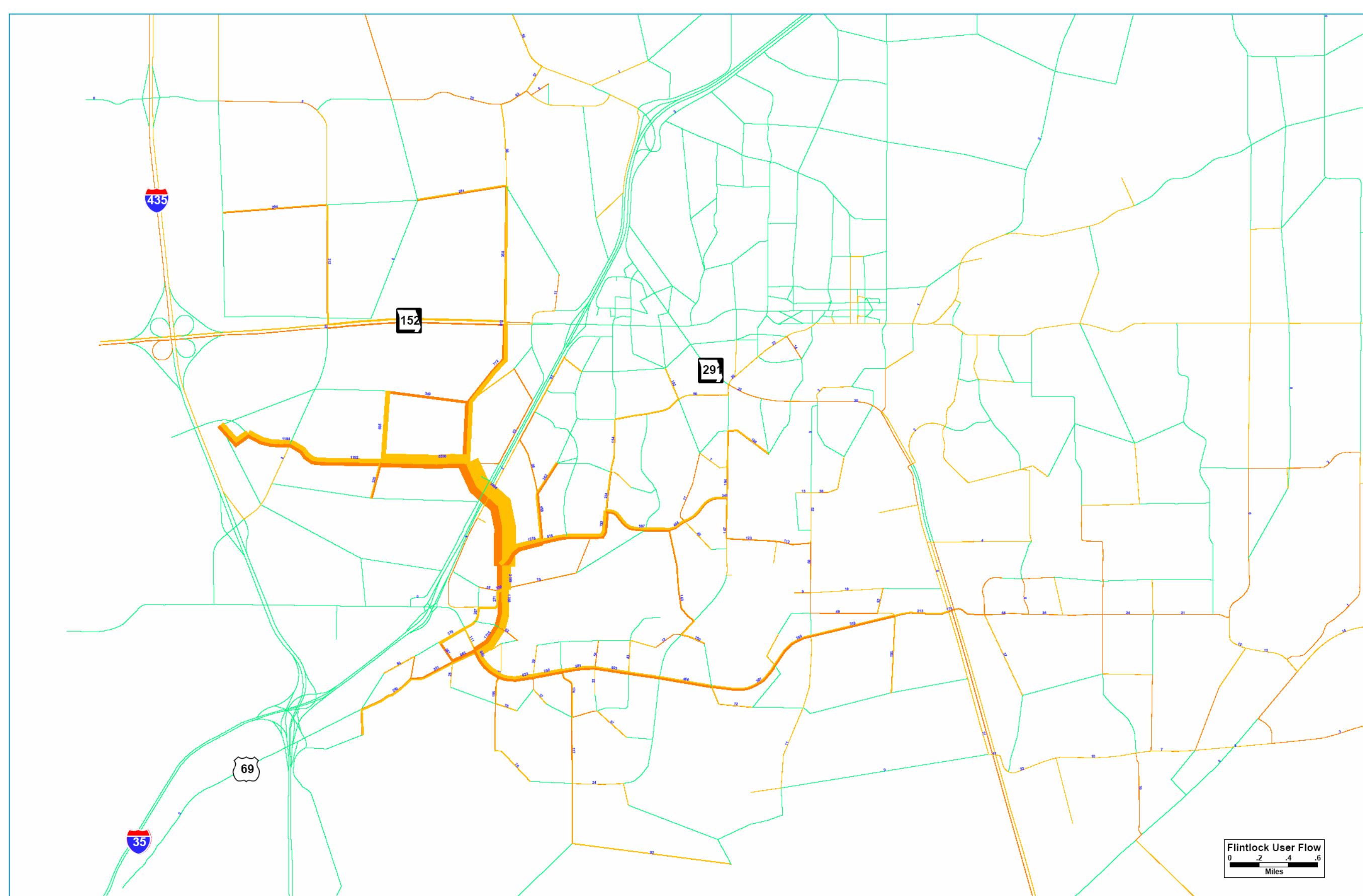
2006 - Final EA

Federal review and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the preferred alternative, based on purpose and need, impacts and public input.

Project Purpose and Need

The area west of I-35 continues to experience significant growth. This EA will determine how to address several critical needs:

- Addressing the need for an enhanced arterial roadway network, as outlined in the City of Liberty's *Economic Development Plan*. (www.ci.liberty.mo.us/Edplan)
- Providing alternatives to Pleasant Valley Road and Missouri 152 across I-35.
- Improving safety and access for students, parents and faculty living west of I-35 to South Valley Middle and Junior High schools.



2030 - Afternoon rush-hour
Flintlock Overpass Users
Southbound and Northbound

2030 - Traffic flow **with**
Flintlock Overpass and
without Flintlock
Overpass

